



fellowship

MGS Alumnae Association Newsletter 2019



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Reunion: Class of 1991 * LoveMGS * MGS Sunday * Mrs Tay * MGSAlumnae Online
Teacher's Day * 131st Founder's Day Dinner * Reunion: Class of 1988 * New in School * Shopping

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Alumna,
After an intensive 2016 and 2017 focused on developing the Heritage Centre, the Alumnae committee took a "breather" last year and concentrated on improving the efficiency of our internal processes. We took the opportunity to run an online inventory of our stocks for sale even as the new website, finally ready for soft launch, was being prepared. You would have received with your notice of AGM

information on the new site which should be operational by May, in time for your Founder's Day Dinner table bookings!

The highlights of the new site include:

- Online sign-up for memberships and payment of fees. The site will also enable you to generate a membership ID online, with a photo supplied by you, so that this can be used for entry into the Sports Complex after paying the relevant fees.
- Founder's Day Dinner bookings and souvenir sales can be transacted online.
- Contacts to an international network of old girls in various cities so that whether you are moving for studies, work or family relocation, a friendly face may be called upon to help orientate you to a new city. We also hope these satellite groups will have regular get-togethers to celebrate milestone events like Founders' Day.
- Lastly, the new site will make it easier for members to volunteer to help out in our various activities such as Alumnae Day or Teachers' Day, or on our sub-committees: Finance, Events, Membership, Website, Retail and Special Projects.

Our thanks go to Melissa Fam and her team who worked hard on getting the new site operational. Though the site is coming onstream later than we expected, it is also capable of much more than we originally anticipated.

One major event which happened towards the end of 2018 was Mrs Tay Poh Imm's retirement. A long-serving Senior Teacher and GB officer/captain since 1970, Mrs Tay is well loved by at least two generations of MGS-ians, having taught many sets of mothers and daughters. I, for, one benefitted from having Mrs Tay as form teacher in Primary 1 and 2 – and couldn't wish for a better start to life in MGS. We wish Mrs Tay a happy retirement, though we know she continues to keep busy in her roles as Girls' Brigade President, loving wife and grandma. In her own words, she is "not retired, but refired"! Speaking of changes to the school, we welcomed Mrs Karen Ivicz as Vice Principal (Primary) at the end of 2017 and are very blessed that Mdm Leong Kit Yee was posted to join her as VP (Primary) at the end of 2018. We warmly welcome both ladies to MGS and hope they are enjoying their time here. Running a full school which



“ Three generations on the first day of school! Mrs Tay's granddaughter started Primary One this year, so we look forward to seeing her at our various MGS events. ”



“ Congratulations to committee member Dawn Chik on her biggest project of 2018! Meet aunty slayer, baby Noah, of easy smiles, chubby cheeks and even chubbier thighs. ”



“ We are pleased to announce the first overseas chapter of our MGS Alumnae Association: The MGS DMV chapter welcomes and supports all MGS Alumnae in the area. Contact us if you live overseas and want to get in touch with fellow alumnae! ”

includes the Primary, Secondary and IP sections is a huge task and we are also glad that our Principal Ms Grace Ng, has been further given additional resources by MOE and the board to concentrate on the tasks at hand. We continue to give thanks to God for bringing our school and staff through the challenging changing educational landscape, and pray that they continue to be guided by what is best for our students, supported by our very helpful alumnae and parents.

At this point, I am also pleased to inform you that all the necessary fund raising for the Sports Complex has been done. Again, a large part of this would not have been possible without the efforts of our old girls and parents (rallied by our ever supportive ParentLink), all of whom worked hard for many years to make this complex a reality.

We continue to thank our faithful old girls who have given tirelessly in various ways to MGS. The class of 1965, which turns 70 years young this year, is paying tribute to their head prefect and an inductee on the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame, Dr Miranda Yap. They are starting a scholarship in the name of Dr Yap, who passed away in 2015. Details of this scholarship will

be out later this year. Other contributions to this fund are also welcome.

Dates to mark on your calendar this year include Love MG on July 12, Founder's Day Dinner on July 25 and Alumnae Day (Past vs Present Games) on August 17. We are hoping to organise more events for members as well - do check your emails or our new website when details are out - and look forward to meeting more of you at these events.

Once again, I would like to thank all the members of my committee for working graciously and cheerfully all year through. It's truly a joy serving with each of you and I thank God that you exemplify our motto: To Master, to Grow, to Serve.

Thanks are also due to the School's Senior Management Team, especially Ms Grace Ng and Mrs Corinne Sim, for their constant counsel, and to Ms Joanna Kong, who so efficiently manages a lot of the administrative work for the Committee.

*Mrs Tjio Bee Ann
Class of 1981*

MGS ALUMNAE COMMITTEE 2018/2019



Front row, from left: Mrs Corinne Sim, Vice-Principal: Barbara Chee, Vice-President; Mrs Tjio Bee Ann, President, and Jean Lee.

Back row: Lynn Lee, Olivia Loh Ing, Fang Lum, Claire Tan, Sharmila Nair, Ruth Yam, Angelina Wong, Sng Jen-Hwei, Fock Yin Ling, Dawn Chik, Joy-Marie Toh and Melissa Fam. **Not in photo:** Deborah Wong and Esther Mak.

A NEW CHAPTER

You can take an MGS girl out of Singapore but you will never take the MGS out of her!
We kick off with the inaugural overseas "chapter" of our Alumnae Association! By Alethea Chew, Class of 1993.



The Inaugural MG in the DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia) gathering organised by former head prefect Joy-Marie Toh (Class of 1989) was held on December 16, 2018. Joining this group of MGS old girls was current MGS teacher Miss Kek Lay Yen who happened to be in town (yes we honour our long-suffering teachers!).

Although all of us were from different graduation years, we were all united to Master, to Grow, to Serve. That means to serve delicious homemade food like pandan cake, sausage rolls, hummus, clay pot rice, and our MGS favourite, rock buns! We were all proud to raise the SHOUT and sing of MGS. There were the mandatory MGS trivia quiz moderated by MGS teacher and our school song. We all gave thanks for friendships made (old and new).

We had our first Yusheng (鱼生) Prosperous Fish Toss of the Pre-Lunar New Year of the Pig Season with fellow MGS Alumnae on February 2nd, 2019.

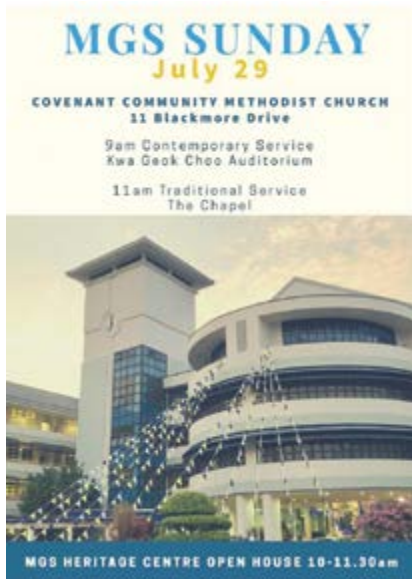
We tried to incorporate all the House colours (Blackmore blue platters, Olson yellow-gold sauce & bowl, Lee green vegetables, Jackson red ginger & pomegranate seeds) with the 美 for our beautiful school's Chinese name 美以美 with carrot calligraphy. The piggy yusheng was carefully crafted for our children. In combination with some lion decor, it's Pig-Mei 美-Lion, to symbolize how we were taught to Master, Grow, & Serve, as MGS students, blossoming where we are planted!

Our cozy group continues to expand and serve as a testament to the life long ties that MGS has blessed us with. To God be the glory!



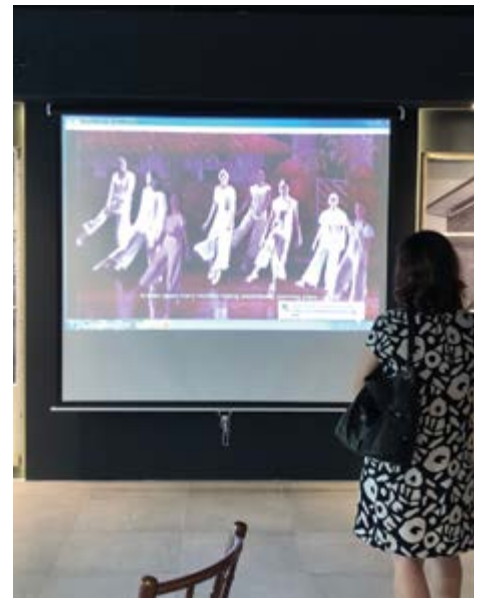
MGS SUNDAY FUNDAY

As part of MGS Sunday at the Covenant Community Methodist Church (CCMC) in MGS, we held an open house at the Heritage Centre, which gave visitors more insight into God's unique plan for our dear old MGS.



On July 29, 2018, the Covenant Community Methodist Church held its annual MGS Sunday, which falls on the first Sunday after our Founder's Day. During this service, MGS students and staff attend, and participate in the service with MGS principal Ms Grace Ng sharing our school theme for the year, "Go Light The World" while the Secondary School Choir sang the theme song for the year, "Carry Your Candle". School Chaplain and CCMC Pastor-in-charge Reverend Malcolm Tan spoke on "The Little Girl Who Did A Great Thing" from 2 Kings 5:1-17.

To God be the Glory always, for great things He has done for our dear MGS.



SOVEREIGN OVER US

LoveMGS has always been a night that allows past and present MGS girls to gather to praise and worship together as one, big MGS family.



This year's LoveMGS held on July 6, 2018 at the Kwa Geok Choo Auditorium was aptly themed, "My God is Sovereign". As we embarked on our journey planning for this event, God put many different thoughts and ideas into each of our hearts and to us, "My God is Sovereign" encompassed all our ideas. We hoped to convey the idea of stillness, of having faith and of God always being with the girls, throughout the many ups and downs they face.

This year's speaker, Audrey Tang (Class of 1986), touched on how different King Saul's and King David's relationships with God were. David was someone who could grasp God's sovereignty and hence, managed to stay rooted and confident in the idea that whether rain or shine, God is in control. Ms Tang also challenged and encouraged us all to be like David, someone who's after God's heart, so that we can have our own personal relationship with Him.

Another thing we really wanted as a committee was for LoveMGS to have a lasting impact on the hearts of whoever attended, to plant a seed in them that would encourage them throughout their daily walk with God. Indeed, praise the Lord for answering our prayers. It was truly heart-warming

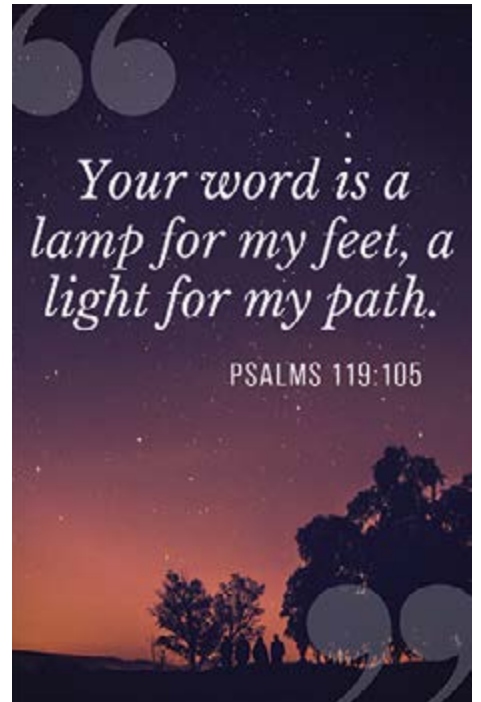
to see that our own MGS girls were moved to sit in circles and pray for each other even after LoveMGS ended. We are happy and grateful that the girls received the gift of prayer and learned the importance of prayer, not just for themselves, but for each other.

Many of the other attendees came forward to be prayed for by our altar ministers as well and we hope they gained a better understanding of what it is like for God to love them unconditionally.

To us, LoveMGS has been a fruitful and fulfilling journey. Many times, we learned to let go and trust in what God wanted to do through us, and not what we wanted to do as a committee. Listening to God's voice and being still in His presence was challenging and hence, we are extremely thankful for the aunties who took time off their busy schedules to meet up with us monthly to pray for God's hand in this event. It gave us the strength and assurance to let the Spirit flow. We are also very thankful for this opportunity to plan this event with our batchmates and to walk with Jesus together with them. Although we were all in different stages in our spiritual lives, we all supported one another and this sense of community and homeliness reminded me of why I still hold my MGS friends so close to my heart.

We want to give thanks to God for His never-ending providence the organising committee, the aunties who prayed with us, the speaker, the worship team and everyone who attended LoveMG 2018. May we all grow in Christ.

Psalms 119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."



RETIRE? NO, REFIRED!

This year, Mrs Tay Poh Imm may have retired after 48 years in MGS, but we are guessing we will still see our dear Mrs Tay in school for many more years to come.

November 9 was a red-letter day in MGS Primary as Mrs Tay Poh Imm officially retired, in a moving send-off by her colleagues and friends. Mrs Tay has been teaching in MGS since 1970 and has achieved a somewhat rock star status - it is not uncommon for new Primary One girls in her class to be daughters of her ex-Primary One students. We know we will continue to see Mrs Tay in MGS, shining for Jesus, as she has done for generations of MGS girls in the last 48 years. May the Lord bless you, Mrs Tay, as you enjoy this new season in life.



Nurturing Hearts and Minds by Daphne Tan

Mrs Tay Poh Imm is in her 45th year of teaching Primary 1 girls in MGS, a ministry that she finds enriching and fulfilling.



Thousands of Primary 1 girls at Meridian Girls' School were taught by Mrs Tay Poh Imm, a second-generation MGS girl who returned to her alma mater as a teacher in 1970. She took on her first Primary 1 class in the following year and has continued to teach at this level since.

Ask her for the names of the girls she used to teach and it is likely she would remember them. She explains: "Back in the old days, we used to write the names down on the register manually so you would match the name and the face of the girl," she says.

When she entered the teaching profession in the 1970s, the profile of the Primary 1 girl was vastly different. Very few girls went to kindergarten before primary school so Primary 1 was the first time they were away from their parents and they were more sheltered. In school, Mrs Tay spent time teaching the girls the alphabet during the first few weeks. She recalls: "I asked them to draw a margin on their exercise book and I had an oval and just the book, the child and me. Some couldn't give their pencil along the lines, others drew crooked lines and one last drew multiple margins across the page."

Teachers took care of all the subjects for their assigned class and they were present throughout the day with the same class. It was the standard practice for Primary 1 girls to have a central teaching figure that helped with the transition from home to school. Today, teachers specialise in different subjects and they teach across different classes in Primary 1.

Over the decades, the Primary 1 girl has also evolved. "They are so process these days, more mature and independent so that they are fun. The Primary 1 child also became more confident as more is expected of them in their basic reading and writing abilities."

Mrs Tay shares that teaching Primary 1 is a ministry for her. "It is so im-

portant for them to come in and feel confident and love school." One of the ways is to work with parents to assure them that their daughters are in good hands. Mrs Tay also works with the child or talks to them if they have difficulty adapting to school or with the school work. The buddy system of pairing a Primary 5 student with a Primary 1 child helps to ease the seven-year-olds into their first two weeks at school.

Mrs Tay hopes to continue in her teaching role with the basic principles of instilling in the Primary 1 child a Godly confidence with a heart of love.

"I always tell my girls at the end of Primary 1 that no matter where they go, God loves them. That's the most important thing to know."



Farewell Song for Mrs Tay Poh Imm

No matter where you're going
You will be dearly missed
It's hard for us to bid you farewell
For we're sad to watch you go
Perhaps you may not remember
But you were there with me
When I started on this journey
As a student of MGS

Love you forever and forever
Love you with all our hearts
Love you when we're together
Love you when we're apart

And when you think of MGS
We know it's with a smile
Thanks for going the extra mile
Making MGS great and fun
For the things you do endear you to us
Oh you know, we will... love you
forever and forever...

CAPTAIN, OUR CAPTAIN!

Girls Brigade (First Company) alumnae surprised Mrs Tay Poh Imm with a retirement party to celebrate her! By Janelyn Yeo, Class of 1995.

A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind and touches a heart. Mrs Tay Poh Imm's GB girls from First Company turned up in force at her surprise retirement party on January 6, 2019 at the Tree Lizard@Dempsey at 6pm. Girls from different years came to celebrate her passion and dedication as she guided us to "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ" during our school years. We decorated and started our scrap-book for Mrs Tay, every girl who came chipped in to help, anticipating her arrival and surprise.

Mrs Tay joined the Girls' Brigade in 1964 as a student herself and since then, she has served as officer for 50 years and was Captain of The First Company Singapore from 1973-1999, touching many lives along the way. It was a joyful celebration of her retirement. She was indeed surprised and delighted to see all of us. Once a GB girl, always a GB girl.



The Organising Committee

Seated, from left:

Tjio Bee Ann, Mrs Tay Poh Imm, Caryn Ong

Standing, from left:

Esther Mak, Evangeline Chong, Janelyn Yeo



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Our 131st Founder's Day dinner was held at the Island Ballroom of the Shangri-La Hotel on July 25, 2018.

It was an evening of reconnections and recollections at our 131st Founder's Day dinner, held at the Island Ballroom of the Shangri-La Hotel on July 25, 2018. Among the guests honoured that evening were Mrs Charlotte Goh (Service To Education Award) and Mrs Sharon Tay, who received the Margaret Goh Service Award. Long service awards were also presented to Ms Kek Lay Yan, Mr David Loh, Mrs Tan Seot Cheng and Mrs Tse Nan Shing for 20 years service. Ms Chuah Cheng Kim, Mrs Kay Pek Hoon, Dr Karen Soh and Mdm Tang Lai Mui received the award for 25 years service while Mrs Catherine Choo received her award for 30 years service!





FEELING GR-88

Once an MGS girl, always an MGS girl and MGS girls will always know that the 25th of July is MGS' Founder's Day. For the class of 1988, Founder's Day 2018 was the 30-year milestone from our Secondary 4 year. By Li-Yen Loh, Class of 1988.

Many months in advance, text messages and facebook chatter started and plans were underway for a big 30th year reunion, including many girls who were living far away in Singapore, to make their way home. Cities of residence included Beijing, Hong Kong, San Francisco, Sheffield, Sydney, Melbourne, Manila and Tokyo. Flights were booked, and for many of us, plans were made to wear cheongsams as a sartorial tribute to our then-principal Mrs Anna Tham whose elegant cheongsams were legendary.

Thirty years is a long time, from 16 year-old students to adult women with full-fledged careers and families, some of whom have survived cancer, divorce and bereavement. But 30 years also passes in the blink of an eye. Founder's Day was a milestone reunion for some of us who have not seen each other since 1988. Once assembled at dinner, laughter was shared, friendships were renewed and many of us felt the familiar comfort of catching up with friends from school.

The Class of 1988 update: After leaving MGS at Mount Sophia, the class of 1988 moved up into junior colleges, polytechnics and universities in Singapore, the UK, Australia and the US. We are glad to report that many of us have taken to heart our MGS motto: To Master, To Grow and To Serve. For a few of us, service has become a full-time job in church and social work. For many more of us, service has become a way of life, volunteering and serving in our churches, in our communities and other avenues of service. We have one principal, one architect and one nurse; many teachers, doctors and lawyers. Many girls pursued careers in banking and finance, in PR & communications, and also the Civil Service. And of course, we have an army of dedicated mums raising the next generation. Among us we have many children, ranging from young adults in their early 20's to infants learning to walk. Noteworthy in our cohort are Serene Aw in Singapore with five

children (ranging from 3 to 21 years' old) and Lynnette Soh in Canada with seven children. We have been blessed in many ways, whether we have gotten married or not, had children or not. The Founder's Day Dinner was a wonderful time of reunion for the Class of 1988, and a renewal of ties that will continue to support us in the years to come.



REUNION: CLASS OF 1991

They say you can take the girl out of MGS but you can't take MGS out of the girl and that's certainly true of the Class of '91.

1991 was a special year in MGS history (and we are not saying that just because it was our year). It was the last year that the school spent at Mount Sophia before moving to Blackmore Drive in 1992 and it also marked the end of an era – Mrs Anna Tham stepped down as MGS' longest-serving Principal at the end of the year and was succeeded by Ms Kon Mei Leen.

For us, MGS was where we learnt who we truly were, what we were capable of, and where we forged lifelong friendships.

We may be glass ceiling-breakers, proud mamas or domestic divas today but we're first and foremost MGS girls.

Since we turned 40, the Class of '91 has been meeting annually in July to mark Founder's Day and to celebrate the friendships made in MGS thanks to the original organisers Shuli Tan and Karen Ho.

Our reunion this year was our biggest yet as more than 50 girls and teachers turned up for the gathering including our Vice-Principal Ms Kon, Mrs Gaspar, Mrs Thomas, Mr Lim Chong Wah, Mrs Yap Tsui Lan, Mrs Dorcas Ang, Mrs Chan Lai Har and Ms Ng Kian Nee.

For Mrs Yap Tsui Lan, herself an Old Girl, the gathering was made even sweeter as she also got to reconnect with her teachers Mrs Thomas and Mrs Gaspar.

Mrs Chan Lai Har also delighted in meeting up with us – she has now been with the school for nearly 40 years and teaches some of our kids – telling us that we were much easier to teach than her current batch of students!

Special thanks to Shuli Tan, Karen Ho, Audris Bay, Tina Lee, Cheryl, Lengze, Vikki Heng, Yin-Fern Lim and many more for helping out, chipping in and hosting the teachers. Here's to 27 years of friendship and counting!



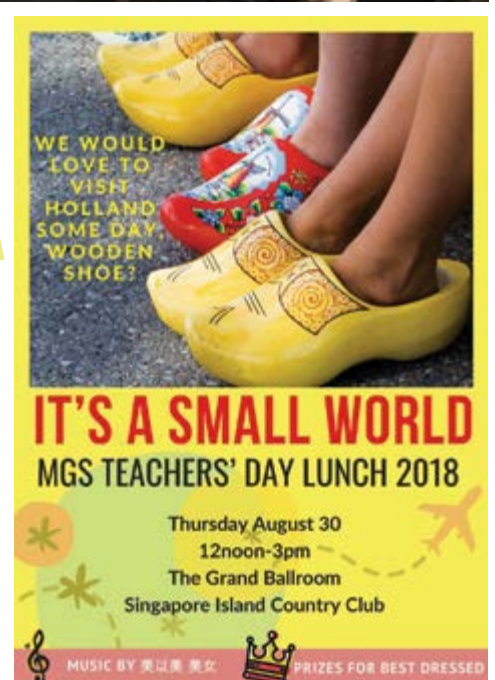
AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY MINUTES

We travelled round the world and back to show our appreciation for the teachers and staff of MGS.

Our 2018 Teachers' Day lunch, themed "It's A Small World After All" was well received by the staff of MGS who turned up in a mixed bag of outfits – ranging from international costumes to school children styles (focusing on the "Small" in the theme)! There were plenty of compliments and appreciation for the efforts to dress up for the occasion, with prizes for the best dressed table and individuals!

Once again, the MGS alumnae band (named "Mei Yi Mei Mei Nu" or, "美以美美女", tongue-in-cheek!) entertained with live music, this time with CCMC staff member and "honorary" Mei Nu Joseph Lim, who is also proud father of two MGS alumnae.

Befitting the world-wide theme was the sumptuous international buffet lunch spread at the Grand Ballroom of the Singapore Island Country Club. We felt we had travelled around the world in an afternoon of honoring our teachers and staff, current and retired, who help our girls to broaden their horizons every day in school.



MERCH MADNESS

*MGS
Alumnae
Shop*

Good news for
shopaholic alumnae
(you know who you are!):

You can now get
your shopping fix
online 24/7 on our
newly launched MGS
Alumnae website!

Available online at
www.MGSalumnae.com



Baseball cap,
\$15



Cotton collegiate T-shirts,
\$25



Set of two trays
with embossed MGS crest,
\$20



Lined denim tote,
with multi-function
inside pockets,
\$25



Our all-cotton Alumnae collegiate
tee takes you from work to play
(or is it the other way round?),
\$25

NEW IN SCHOOL

Thoughtful touches in MGS remind the girls of their MGS identity.

Watch your step, literally! MGS unveiled a series of creative stair decals to remind all who walk her halls what being an MGS girl is about. We love, love, love these!



Last July, as part of our 131st Founder's Day celebrations, the school revealed new banners, house mascots and slogans for each of our four MGS Houses – Blackmore (blue), Jackson (red), Lee (green) and Olson (yellow). The mascots were selected based on their positive qualities, and meaningful Biblical references to spur each girl to greater heights, not just for their house but also for the MGS family, and most importantly, to bring glory to God!



BLACKMORE
House Mascot:
The Eagle

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31



JACKSON
House Mascot:
The Stallion

"The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord."

Proverbs 21:31



LEE
House Mascot:
The Gazelle

"He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; He causes me to stand on the heights."

Psalms 18:33



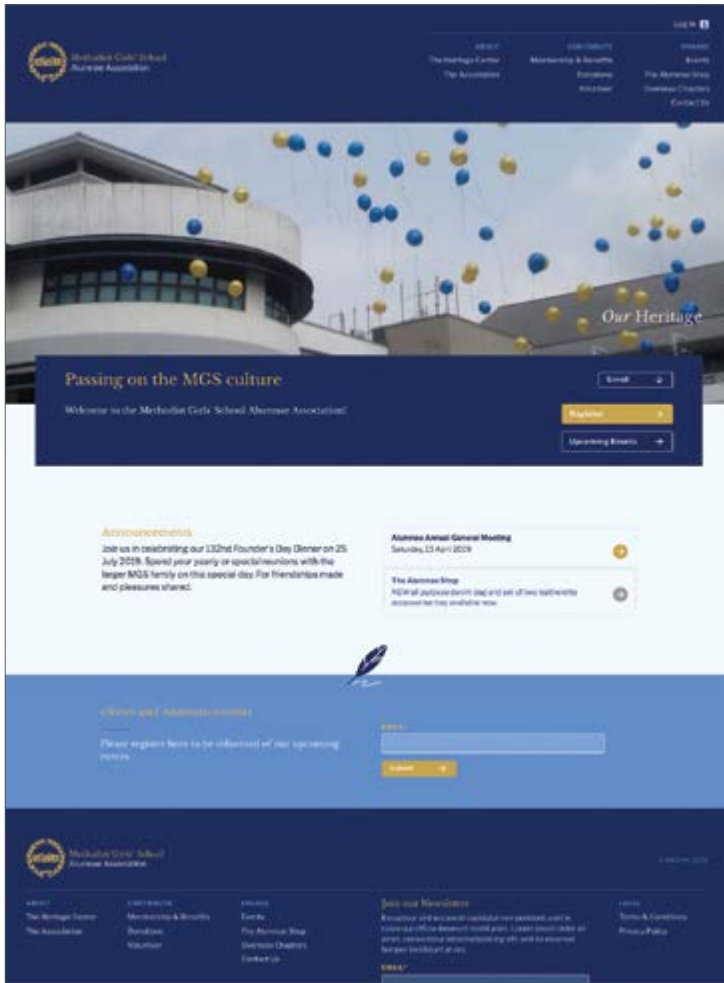
OLSON
House Mascot:
The Lion

"The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion."

Proverbs 28:1

COMING SOON

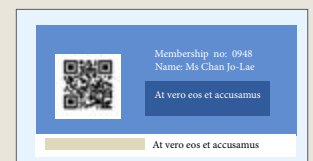
The MGS Alumnae Association will be moving to our brand new online home: www.MGSalumnae.com!



The new website will be a one-stop portal for alumnae all over the world to be connected to one another, get their latest MGS news and event photos, check out class reunion notes, register for Founder's Day Dinner, as well as order the latest MGS merchandise!

Key features include the ability to register (and pay) for Alumnae membership online, and a convenient digital ID for access to the Sports Complex on campus.

Once registered, alumnae members will be able to log onto their account, which will display their photo and a unique QR code.



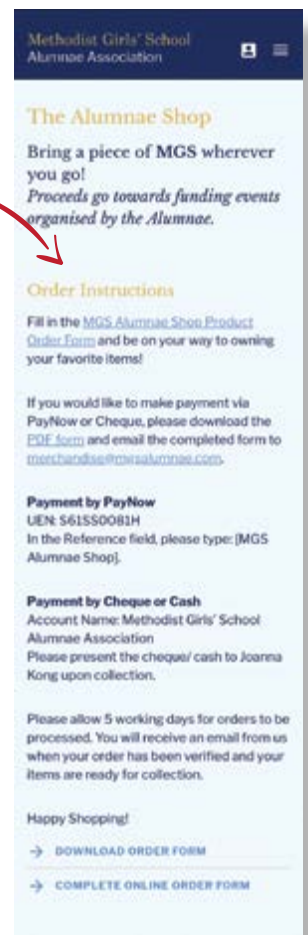
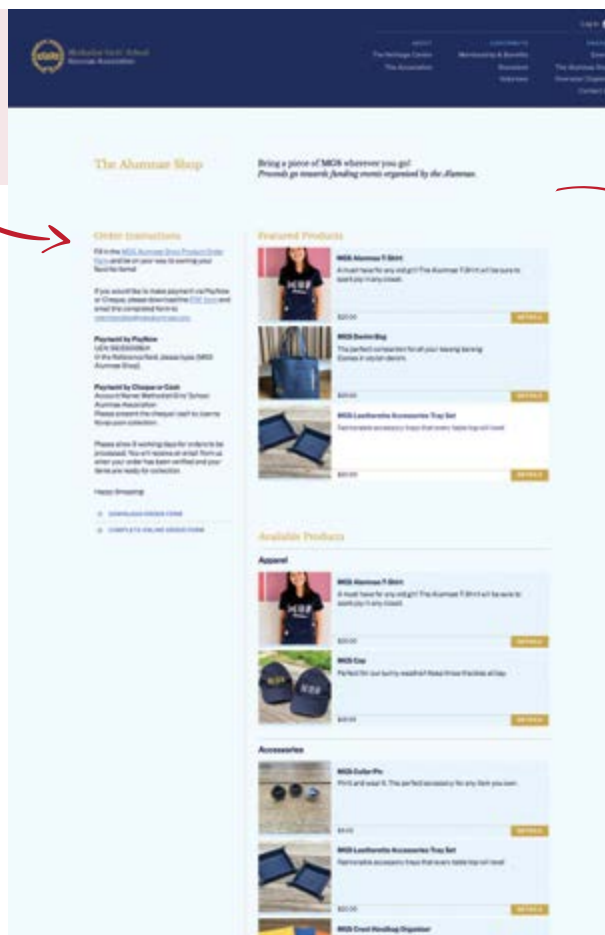
In addition, the portal will allow alumnae to make donations online, learn about volunteering and mentorship opportunities, be eligible for exclusive discounts, events, and other membership benefits, as well as re-connect with old classmates and plan reunions.

Browse the entire catalogue of MGS merchandise, order and pay online by secure credit card payment directly from the Alumnae shop.

Alumnae who haven't had a chance to visit the new Heritage Centre can also check out video clips and exhibit photos through the online gallery.

Also for members not based in Singapore, we will be launching a network of overseas chapters to better connect with other old girls in their country or region.

The website should come online in the second quarter of this year, just in time to book a table for the 132nd Founder's Day Dinner on July 25, 2019 – which you will now be able to do at the new website!



Coming your way very soon...

The MGS Alumnae Association will be moving to a brand new online home:

www.MGSalumnae.com

